

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DRC-01 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 PRS-01 CPR-02 SCS-03

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R 290810Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7074

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1309

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: CONSULAR CONVENTION

REF: STATE 191659

1. ON 28 SEPTEMBER CONSUL MET INFORMALLY WITH MFA
CONSULAR SECTION (KARASLAVOV) AND SUBORDINATES (KUMANOV AND
KARAG'OSOVA) TO CONSIDER NEXT STEP IN FURTHER PROGRESS
TOWARD CONCLUSION CONSULAR AGREEMENT. HE WAS ABLE TO
(A) CONVEY USG CONTINUED INTEREST IN FINALIZATION AGREE-
MENT; (B) DETERMINE NATURE OF ANY BULGARIAN MISUNDERSTANDING
OF US INTENT REGARDING PROPOSED NOTE ON DUAL NATIONALS
(AND WHETHER BULGARIANS AWARE OUR NOTE EXCHANGE WITH
CZECHS THIS SUBJECT); AND (C) SECURE BULGARIAN VIEWS ON
DESIRABILITY DISPATCH US NEGOTIATOR FROM WASHINGTON TO
CONTINUE TALKS HERE.

2. BULGARIANS CLAIMED NO MISUNDERSTANDING REGARDING OUR
INTENT WITH NOTE ON DUAL NATIONALS BUT EXPRESSED FEAR
THAT ENVISIONED NOTE WOULD INTRODUCE UNDESIRABLE
COMPLICATIONS FOR BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES IN DEALING
WITH DUAL NATIONALS WHO HAVE BEEN REFUGEES (IT WAS
IMPLIED THAT SUCH INDIVIDUALS COULD UNDER NO VISA
REQUIREMENT SYSTEM CONCEIVABLY ENTER BULGARIA ON US
PASSPORTS AND BE IDENTIFIED AS "ILLEGAL EMIGRANTS"
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ONLY AFTER ENTRY).

3. KRASLAVOV SAID THAT, AS OF THE DATE OF DRAFTING OF BULGARIAN "PRELIMINARY NOTES", HE HAD BEEN UNAWARE OF CZECH ACCEPTANCE US PROPOSED NOTE ON DUAL NATIONALS. HE RECOGNIZED THAT BULGARIAN OBSERVATION THAT USG IS ASKING BULGARIA TO ACCEPT UNDERSTANDING ON DUAL NATIONALS THAT HAS NOT BEEN CONCISTENTLY DEMANDED OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS IS NOT FACTUAL AND ADMITTED THAT WE HAD INSISTED ON SUCH AGREEMENT IN RECENTLY CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS WITH POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. AFTER EMPHASIZING AGAIN THAT USG MOST INTERESTED IN CONCLUDING CONSULAR AGREEMENT, CONSUL EXPRESSED "PERSONAL OPINION" THAT THIS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT NOTE ON DUAL NATIONALS. KARASLAVOV READILY ADMITTED DECISION ON ACCEPTANCE DUAL NATIONAL NOTE WILL BE MADE OUTSIDE MFA. BASED ON KARASLAVOV'S MANNER AT MEETING AND GOB'S KNOWLEDGE OF CZECH ACCEPTANCE OF DUAL NATIONAL NOTE, CONSUL SPECULATES BULGARIAN AGREEMENT TO NOTE LIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING.

4. KARASLAVOV URGED THAT DEPT NEGOTIATOR COME TO SOFIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT FINAL LANGUAGE IN ALL THESE AREAS WHERE SUCH CAN BE DONE. HE BELIEVES THIS HOLDS FOR VIRTUALLY ALL ARTICLES EXCEPT NOTE ON DUAL NATIONALS. WITH REFERENCE TO HIS OWN SCHEDULE, KARASLAVOV SUGGESTED NEGOTIATOR ARRIVE SOFIA BETWEEN 22 OCTOBER AND 5 NOVEMBER (ANTICIPATING WEEK'S TALKS) OR ANYTIME DECEMBER. CONSUL SAID HE WOULD CONVEY SUGGESTION.

5. CONSUL DID NOT RAISE QUESTIONS POSED REF ON ARTICLES 6, 15, 16 AND 38. WE SEE THEM AS BETTER DEFERRED FOR HANDLING BY NEGOTIATOR. IF DEPT FEELS ASPECTS OF THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE RAISED WITH BULGARIANS IN ADVANCE OF ARRIVAL NEGOTIATOR, PLEASE SO INDICATE.

6. RESPONDING SEPARATELY TO REQUEST FOR EMBASSY PROPOSAL REGARDING INHERITANCES AND REMITTANCE THEREOF. BATJER

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